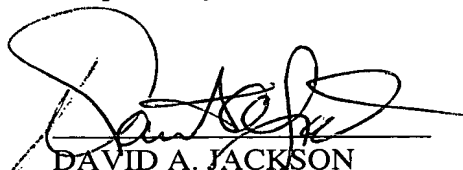


REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended during a recent brief telephone discussion with a colleague of the undersigned regarding the status of the present application.

The above Preliminary Amendment is submitted so as to be considered at the commencement of prosecution, and is believed to present claims that better focus on the structure of the splash guard portion of the present invention. In particular, Claims 12-26 recite the structure of the splash guard, and the physical relation of the splash guard to the overall pan, as well as to the versatility of the pan in its use for differing commodes in which the pan may be situated (i.e., stand-alone and toilet associated). These refinements find specific support in the Specification of the Application at filing, particularly on page 6, lines 11-22 and in Figures and 3A/3B. Hence, the insertion of the revised claims herein is not believed to constitute new matter. Accordingly entry and favorable consideration are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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